Sir:

In response to the Official Action of May 21, 2001, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 4-7 by rewriting same to read as follows, and cancel claim 3, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Twice Amended) A terminal device for communicating with an accounting center, comprising:

a first memory for storing accounting point information;

a second memory for storing information received from an external source external to the terminal device;

a controller for updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory and for updating attributes of the received information when the received information is stored in the second memory,

wherein when the received information is stored into the second memory the controller reduces the accounting point information stored in the first memory and updates the attributes of the received information from an unavailable state to an available state; and

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a second controller for transmitting the accounting point information stored in the first memory to the accounting center and for setting the accounting point information to an initial value based on an accounting processing status, received by the terminal device from the accounting center, corresponding to the accounting point information.

--4. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the accounting point information stored in the first memory is below a minimum for the received information stored in the second memory, the controller performs control so that the attributes of the received information are held in the unavailable state to a user.

--5. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the accounting point information stored in the first memory is below a minimum for the received information stored in the second memory, the second controller transmits the accounting point information stored in the first memory to the accounting center and sets the accounting point information stored in the first memory at the initial value based on the status of accounting processing corresponding to the accounting point information.

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--6. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a communicator for communicating with an external device,

wherein the controller receives external device information from the external device connected via the communicator and updates the accounting point information stored in the first memory in accordance with the received external device information and updates the attributes of the received information.

--7. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a third controller for making a request for purchasing the accounting point information to the accounting center and updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory based on the accounting processing status corresponding to the accounting point information received from the accounting center.--